

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1 1. A method for use in a transmitter, the method comprising the steps of:
2 using a downlink channel to convey information to a group of devices; and
3 load balancing the downlink channel.

1 *Sub* 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the downlink channel comprises a sequence of
2 dwells, each dwell having a time period, and wherein the method further comprises the
3 step of detecting that at least one dwell of the sequence conveys more downlink
4 information than the other dwells of the sequence as a prerequisite to performing the load
5 balancing step.

1 3. A method for use in a wireless system, the method comprising the steps of:
2 sending data to a group of N wireless endpoints over a communications channel
3 comprising a sequence of time slots;
4 detecting an imbalance such that some of the time slots convey more data than
5 other time slots; and
6 shifting some of the data from at least one time slot to another time slot for
7 reducing the detected imbalance.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the detecting step includes the steps of:
2 measuring the amount of data sent in each of M timeslots to the N wireless
3 endpoints; and
4 comparing the measured data for at-least-one of the M timeslots to others of the M
5 timeslots for detecting the imbalance.

1 5. A method for use in a wireless system, the method comprising the steps of:
2 sending data to a group of N wireless endpoints over a communications channel
3 comprising a sequence of time slots;
4 detecting an imbalance such that every other time slot of the sequence conveys
5 more data than the remaining time slots of the sequence; and
6 shifting some of the data from at least one of the every other time slots to at least

Sub 1
one of the remaining time slots for reducing the detected imbalance.

1 6. Apparatus for use in a communications system, the apparatus comprising:
2 a transmitter for providing a downlink channel to convey information to a group of
3 devices; and
4 a processor for performing load balancing on the downlink channel.

Sub 1
1 7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the downlink channel comprises a number of
2 dwells, each dwell having a time period, and wherein the processor performs the load
3 balancing upon detection that at least one of the dwells conveys more downlink
4 information than the other dwells.

1 8. Apparatus for use in a wireless system, the apparatus comprising:
2 a memory for storing data for transmission to a group of N wireless endpoints;
3 a scheduler for retrieving the stored data and for measuring the amount of stored
4 data transmitted in each of M timeslots to the N wireless endpoints, and for comparing the
5 measured data for at-least-one of the M timeslots to others of the M timeslots for
6 detecting an imbalance in the transmission and for shifting some of the data from at least
7 one time slot to another time slot for reducing the detected imbalance.

1 9. Apparatus for use in a wireless system, the apparatus comprising:
2 a memory for storing data for transmission to a group of N wireless endpoints;
3 a scheduler for retrieving the stored data and for measuring the amount of stored
4 data transmitted in each of M timeslots to the N wireless endpoints, and for detecting an
5 imbalance such that every other time slot of the M time slots convey more data than the
6 remaining time slots of the M time slots; and for shifting some of the data from at least one
7 of the every other time slots to at least one of the remaining time slots for reducing the
8 detected imbalance.